\*\*\*\*\* Approved by AIP Authority on Fri Apr 04 2025 11:36:58 GMT+1100 (AEDT) \*\*\*\*\*

Australian Jobs Act 2013



AIP Plan reference code:

Australian Industry Participation Plan Summary - Project Phase

**Nominated project proponent:** RICHMOND VALLEY SOLAR AND BESS PTY LTD

Project details

Name: Richmond Valley Solar Farm

Location: Myrtle Creek NSW

Type: Electricity facility

Purpose: Establish new facility

Capital expenditure: $500 million or more

Description: The Richmond Valley Solar and BESS project is a proposed solar farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) located in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales, approximately seven kilometres to the east of the town of Rappville in the Richmond Valley LGA. The Project involves the installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of up to 500 megawatts of DC solar electricity generation and BESS of approximately 2,200 megawatt hours capacity. The project will also include supporting infrastructure, inverters to concert DC to AC electricity, a substation, switching substation and transmission lines to the nearby Transgrid transmission network. As of December 2024, the project is in the final stages of securing its planning and environmental approvals from the NSW Departments of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. Once these approvals are in place, the project is expected to commence detailed engineering design, enabling procurement processes to comments. All procurement entities that are appointed will be contractually required to comply with, and report against, the approved AIP plan. Procurement for the Project commenced in 2024 with the three major procurement packages expected to be awarded in 2025 as below: 1. BESS Supply: Contract award expected in Q1 2025, following a competitive tender process. 2. EPC: procurement strategy involves the appointment one Principal Contractor following a competitive tender process to provide the Solar Plan, BESS Balance of Plant and HV\* scope. • RFT Issue – Q1 2025 • EC I – Q3 2025 • Construction commences – Q4 2025 \*Ark Energy will consider decoupling the HV scope and competitively tender to HV specialists providers E.g. Transgrid, Lumea etc.). 3. Long Lead Equipment:

* R FQ Issue – Q1 2025 • RFQ Award – Q2 2025

Completion date: 01 Mar 2028

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Key goods and services

Indicative list of key goods and services to be acquired for the project:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Key goods and services** | **Opportunities for Australian entities\***  | **Opportunities for non-Australian entities** | **Explanation for no opportunities for Australian entities** |

Engineering design services Yes Yes

LV cable design and installation Yes Yes

HV design and installation of Yes Yes

substation/s and switchyards

Plant hire Yes No

Transport Yes No

Labour hire Yes No

traffic management services Yes No

Supply of fuel/oil Yes No

Accommodation, meals and entertainment Yes No

BESS Supply Yes Yes

BoP Works Construction Materials - Yes No

Concrete

BoP Works Construction Materials - Yes No
Steel

BoP Works Construction Materials - Yes No
Electrical Cabling

BoP Works - Cooling Systems Yes No

BoP Works - Fire Protection Systems Yes No

BoP Works - Control and Monitoring Yes No

Systems

BoP Works - Protective Coatings and Yes No
Insulation

Bulk Earth Works Yes No

PV Module Supply Yes Yes

Pile installation Yes No

Electrical Install Yes No

Mechanical Install Yes No

Cable Trenching Yes No

Site Security Yes No

Fence and Gates Supply and Install Yes No

Waste Management Services Yes No

\*

An Australian entity is an entity with an ABN or ACN
Project standards:

Australian
International

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Supplier information and communication

Project proponent’s contact person for supplier enquiries:

**Contact person name** Martha O'Connor-Velez

**Contact person position** Senior Procurement Manager

**Phone number** 0472866954

**E-mail** martha.oconnor@arkenergy.com.au

Project proponent website: <https://arkenergy.com.au/solar/richmond-valley/>
Project opportunities website: <https://arkenergy.com.au/solar/richmond-valley/>
Supplier engagement and communication actions :

Promote project opportunities through industry associations

Conduct supplier information briefings on project opportunities and bid processes

Issue media releases or ASX announcements on project developments and opportunities

Directly contact suppliers with information on project opportunities and bid processes

Building Australian industry capability

Supplier capability development actions:

Provide market intelligence to suppliers

Encourage joint ventures and alliances between suppliers

Global supply chain integration actions:

Provide references for high performing suppliers
Feedback process for unsuccessful bidders:

Ark Energy will provide targeted feedback to unsuccessful Australian tenderers, ensuring it's relevant and industry specific. This feedback will include recommendations for development activities, like support programs and training, to boost their future tender capabilities. Unsuccessful tenderers will receive constructive feedback on their submissions' strengths and weaknesses, focusing on quality, compliance, and competitiveness. Improvement suggestions will be provided to enhance their future tender submissions. Notification to unsuccessful bidders will be provided in written, the notification will include an offer from Ark Energy for detail feedback through a verbal discussion. Procurement entities will be required to offer feedback, including training and development recommendations tailored to the tenderer’s needs. Feedback will also be offered to unsuccessful Australian bidders and will include recommendations of relevant skills, capability, and capacity development. This approach promotes continuous improvement among suppliers, encouraging a cycle of development to improve their future tender prospects and overall performance.

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Australian Industry Participation Plan Summary - Operations Phase

**Nominated facility operator:** RICHMOND VALLEY SOLAR AND BESS PTY LTD

Facility details

Name: Richmond Valley Solar Farm

Location: Myrtle Creek NSW

Type: Electricity facility

Key goods and services

Indicative list of key goods and services to be acquired for the new facility:

**Opportunities for**

**Australian entities \***

**Opportunities for
non-Australian
entities**

**Explanation for no opportunities for Australian entities**

**Key goods and services**

Operation and Maintenance Services Yes No

Ancilliary Services (Cleaning, Security, Waste Yes No

Management, Pets control etc)

\*An Australian entity is an entity with an ABN or ACN
Facility standards:

Australian
International

Supplier information and communication

Facility operator’s contact person for supplier enquiries:

**Contact person name** Martha O'Connor-Velez

**Contact person position** Senior Procurement Manager

**Phone number** 0472866954

**E-mail** martha.oconnor@arkenergy.com.au

Facility operator website: <https://arkenergy.com.au/solar/richmond-valley/> Facility opportunities website: <https://arkenergy.com.au/solar/richmond-valley/> Supplier engagement and communication actions :

Promote project opportunities through industry associations

Engage with vendor identification agencies on project opportunities and bid processes Conduct supplier information briefings on project opportunities and bid processes Directly contact suppliers with information on project opportunities and bid processes

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Building Australian industry capability

Supplier capability development actions:

Provide market intelligence to suppliers

Encourage joint ventures and alliances between suppliers

Support supplier development initiatives of industry associations or governments

Global supply chain integration actions:

Provide references for high performing suppliers
Feedback process for unsuccessful bidders:

Ark Energy and the prospective O&M Facility contractor will provide targeted feedback to unsuccessful Australian tenderers, ensuring it's relevant and industry specific. This feedback will include recommendations for development activities, like support programs and training, to boost their future tender capabilities. Unsuccessful tenderers will receive constructive feedback on their submissions' strengths and weaknesses, focusing on quality, compliance, and competitiveness. Improvement suggestions will be provided to enhance their future tender submissions. Notification to unsuccessful bidders will be provided in written, the notification will include an offer from Ark Energy for detail feedback through a verbal discussion. The prospective O&M Facility contractor entities will be required to offer feedback, including training and development recommendations tailored to the tenderer’s needs. Feedback will also be offered to unsuccessful Australian bidders and will include recommendations of relevant skills, capability, and capacity development. This approach promotes continuous improvement among suppliers, encouraging a cycle of development to improve their future tender prospects and overall performance

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